



## The partners of the European Food-scalEUp project analyse their agri-food digital acceleration ecosystems

**In the context of the development of European innovation ecosystems, the Food-scalEUp project aims at fostering collaboration of structures that boost digital agri-food acceleration programmes and services at regional level. Food-scalEUp, funded by Horizon Europe, thus encourages policy dialogues, mutual learning exercises and explores business opportunities for the development of innovative start-ups and SMEs.**

10 partner organisations (clusters, accelerators, technopoles) of the project have conducted a cross analysis of their agri-food digital acceleration ecosystems. This collaborative work has drawn up a European landscape of agri-food digital acceleration ecosystem through a directory of key players and a portfolio of available programmes.

### Identification of actors and acceleration programmes

This work is a preliminary step to the construction of the Food-scalEUp agri-food acceleration network, consisting of a mapping of the elements of start-up acceleration. This mapping is designed to obtain a directory of actors and acceleration programmes available at regional and European level.

In total, the Food-scalEUp partners have mapped at different levels of involvement (roles in acceleration, types of structure, vertical/horizontal approach...) about 700 actors within the following regions:

- Közép-Dunántúl (Hungary)
- Galicia & Navarra (Spain)
- Normandie, Pays de la Loire, Bretagne, PACA & Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (France)
- Ostwestfalen-Lippe & North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)
- Gelderland & Noord-Brabant (The Netherlands)

This directory is intended to become a tool available on the Food-scalEUp website and will be open to other acceleration and innovation ecosystems.

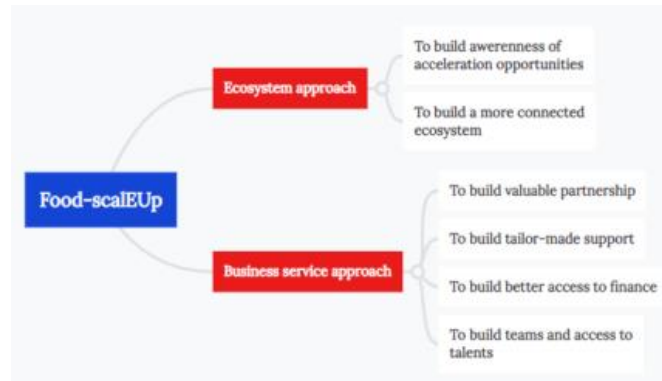
### Identifying the needs of agri-food innovation companies

In a similar way, the project conducted a survey of about 70 European start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs from which a series of improvement points and recommendations were identified.

All profiles consulted had benefited from acceleration services in the last three years and were start-ups, scale-ups or innovative SMEs focused on agri-food and digital solutions. Based on the findings of the consulted end-users of acceleration services, a set of six areas for improvement was identified.



In addition, from a “business needs” perspective, it was found that the main suggestions for improvement relate to building valuable partnerships and building tailor-made support. It was also noted that many programmes are aimed at start-ups, which may require an increase in the provision of acceleration services at later stages of maturity.



*Mind map representation of acceleration areas of improvement*

In this way, the characterisation of the ecosystems of the Food-scalEU partnership makes it possible to highlight topics of common interest that will support actions and opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking between key actors at the European acceleration scale.

**Soon available on the project website.**



## Food-scalEU project at a glance

Food-scalEU is implemented by the following partners:



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